(b) if so, the rate of increase;

(c) the reasons for such increase; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to keep the prices under check?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). The latest Consumer Price Index Numbers (for Industrial Workers) are available for the month of September, 1991. The variations in the Index in the quarter ending September, 1991 in comparison to the quarters ending June 1991, March, 1991, December, 1990, October, 1990 and June, 1990 are as follows:

Quarter ending	*Variation*
September, 1991	+ 5.7%
June, 1991	+ 4.0%
March, 1991	+1.0%
December, 1990	+ 4.2%
October, 1990	+ 3.2%
June, 1990	+ 4.5%

(c) The rise in prices of some of essential commodities may be attributed to upward revision of minimum support prices of both Kharif and Rabi crops (such a Paddy, Wheat, Pulses and oil seeds etc.), upward revisibn of Petroleum Products, demand and supply gap in item like pulses, cumulative effect of increase in money supply, etc.

(d) The present Government attaches the highest priority to contain price rise within reasonable limits. Efforts are being made to restrain the growth in money supply, effect demand management of 'sensitive commodities', strengthening and streamlining the Public Distribution System, strict action against hoarders and profiteers and provision of incentives for higher production in the medium term. With a view of monitoring the prices of essential commodities and ensuring their supply, the Government have constituted a Cabinet Committee on Prices under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister. The Government has already released 3 lakh tonnes of wheat in the open market sale and has imported palmolein oil for distribution through the Public Distribution net work.

Declaration of deep sea fishing as a Agro-Based Industry

2093. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to declare deep sea fishing as an Agro-based industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is also any proposal to extend financial assistance to the sick deep-sea fishing units for their revival; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India Ltd. is implementing a scheme to provide rehabilitation relief to sick deep sea fishing units. Salient features of the scheme are given in the statement given below.

STATEMENT

Salient features of the Rehabilitation scheme for providing relief to the Sick Deep Sea fishing companies.

The main highlights of the scheme are as under:-

a) All those companies in respect of which liability for payment of interest and/or repayment of the principal amount of the loan had commenced before June 30, 1987, would repay the entire overdues on account of interest and principal repayment as on June 30, 1987 before the commencement of the rehabilitation package. Of the total overdues, an amount equivalent to 10% of the overdues would be payable within a month and the balance 90% within six months of the commencement of the scheme.

b) In case of the companies where the payment of interest and/or payment of principal amount of loan had not commenced till June 30, 1987, the concerned company would pay 25% of the overdues as on June 30, 1990 in the same manner as stated in para (a) above.

c) As a part of the rehabilitation package the penal interest would be waived and interest would be computed at the document rate for the period commencing from June 1987 to June 30, 1991. The interest for the period ending June 30, 1991, thus computed would be capitalised and added to the principal amount of loan.

d) The Govt. of India would consider providing additional loans for financing, increase in the cost of the vessel on account of exchange fluctuations in respect of imported vessels where the payment to the yards are outstanding or the vessels are yet to be delivered.

e) The Government of India/SCICI would consider providing additional loan to meet the cost of increase in the cost of indigenous vesses where the patments to the yard are yet to be delivered.

(f) Th Government of India/SCISC would consider providing additional loan to meet the cost of repair of the vessel owned by companies availing of this rehabilitation package.

g) SCICI would consider providing additional loan for modification/additions of fishing gear for diversified fishing by the existing trawlers.

Subsidy on fertilizers

2094. SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of subsidy amount payable to various fertilizer manufactures for the quarters ending June and September, 1991 which was withheld consequent upon the introduction of dual pricing policy for fertilizers;

(b) whether the fertilizer production has considerably decreased as a result thereof; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) No Subsidy amount payable to various fertilizer manufactures for the quarter ending June and September, 1991 has been withheld due to the introduction of dual pricing policy for fertilizers.

(b) and (c). In view of reply to part (a) above, question does not arise.